THE MNIISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) According to DESU, they were earlier sending the Electricity Bills to the consumers through messengers. The system of sending the bills by post has been introduced to reduce the complaints from the consumers about wrong delivery or delay in receiving the bills. Though the postal authorities have expressed some administrative difficulties in accepting the large number of Electricity Bills for delivery the problems is being sorted out by meeting the essential requirements of the postal authorities for delivering the Electricity Bills in the various Post Offices for clearence.

(c) With the stabilisation of the system of sending the Electricity Bills by post, the problems faced by the consumers are expected to be removed. Hence, there is no proposal for the present to revent to the earlier practice of sending the bills through the messengers.

OPD treatment at AIIMS

771. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi has started restruction practice in its OPDs and refusing to see the hapless patients there;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard to give relief to the patients?

THE MNISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The AIIMS has reported that it runs 13 general OPDs and 56 Speciality Clinics and all the patients coming to these OPDs and Clinics are properly attended to. It was only for about a month (15th May to 15th June, 1990) that some restriction was imposed in the Medical OPD only due to shortage of consultants and Senior Residents in the Department of Medicine. Rest of the OPDs functioned normally. Even during the period in question, no deserving patient was refused treatment or consultation.

Spread of AIDS

772. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey in the red light area of Delhi and other State Capitals about the prostitures suffering from AIDS;

(b) if so, what are the details and the results thereof; and

(c) what preventive steps Government propose to take to stop the spread of AIDS through prostitutes and call girls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) and (b) Yes, the AIIMS, New Delhi has conducted survey in the red light area of Delhi. Such surveys have also been conducted in Bombay, Madras and Vellore. According to information received from I.C.M.R., the studies indicate that between 25—30 per cent of all prostitutes screened in 1990 were found to be sero-positive.

(c) Government of India has drawn up a Medical Term Plan for prevention of AIDS. In the Medium Term Plan, it has been decided to strengthen the existing facilities for treatment of AIDS infected patients at ten identified Medical Colleges and Hospitals in the country. The expansion of the facilities include:

—providing clinical care to patients with HIV infection.

—providing counselling to the patients and their spouces/relatives.

—providing continuous medical care at the out-patients.

—collecting data on clinical profile, immunological profile, opportunistic infections and other manifestations of HIV infection.

—providing training facilities to medical and para-medical personnel in the management of HIV patients.